

Appl. No. 09/823,045

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An absorbent device for insertion into a vaginal cavity, said absorbent device comprising an overwrap and an absorbent structure, the overwrap comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, said overwrap comprised of dissimilar materials such that said upper portion comprising a liquid permeable material selected from the group consisting of open mesh webs, polymeric nets, and apertured films and said lower portion comprising a liquid impermeable material selected from the group consisting of thin films and coated fabrics, said upper and lower portions joined to form a container for said absorbent material, said lower portion contacting walls of said vaginal cavity and said absorbent structure comprising absorbent material.

2. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 1, wherein said absorbent material comprises a fibrous material.

3. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 2, wherein said fibrous, absorbent material comprises a binding agent.

4. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 3, wherein said binding agent is water soluble.

5. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 1, wherein said absorbent material is bondable fiber.

6. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 5, wherein said bondable fiber comprises cellulosic fibers.

7. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 6, wherein said cellulosic fibers comprise multi-limbed regenerated cellulosic fibers.

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8. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 6, wherein said cellulosic fibers comprise non-limbed cellulosic fibers.

9. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 6, wherein said cellulosic fibers comprise a mixture of multi-limbed regenerated cellulosic fiber and non-limbed regenerated cellulosic fiber.

10. (Previously Presented) An absorbent device of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is compressed.

11. (Original) An absorbent means of claim 1, wherein said absorbent material comprises a pledget.

12. (Original) An absorbent means of claim 1, wherein said absorbent material comprises a plurality of compressed tablets.

13. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 1, wherein said absorbent material comprises foam.

14. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 1, wherein said upper portion comprises a non-woven material.

15. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 1, wherein said upper portion comprises an apertured film.

16. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 1, wherein said lower portion comprises a film.

17. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 16, wherein said film is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, rubber, elastomers and combinations thereof.

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18. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 16, wherein said lower portion comprises a bottom portion and a sidewall.

19. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 18, wherein said bottom portion is thicker than said sidewall.

20. (Previously Presented) An absorbent device of claim 18, wherein said bottom portion has extending therefrom a body withdrawal mechanism.

21. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 1, further comprising a withdrawal string.

22. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 21, wherein a withdrawal string is attached to said bottom portion.

23. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 1, wherein said upper portion and said lower portion are joined at a junction, said junction formed by thermobonding.

24. (Currently Amended) An absorbent device of claim 1, further comprising a strengthening ring, said ring capable of opening said lower portion.

25. (Original) An absorbent device for insertion into a vaginal cavity, the absorbent device comprising an absorbent structure contained within an overwrap, the overwrap comprising a liquid permeable upper portion and a liquid impermeable lower portion, the absorbent structure comprising aggregate absorbent material.

26. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 25, wherein the upper portion comprises a non-woven material.

27. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 25, wherein the lower portion comprises a film.

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28. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 25, wherein the upper portion comprises an apertured film.

29. (Original) An absorbent device of claim 25, wherein the absorbent material comprises fibers.